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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/551,511	10/03/2006	Malcolm Reginald Hallas Bell	020305-004006	6093
34313 7590 07/23/2008 ORRICK, HERRINGTON & SUTCLIFFE, LLP IP PROSECUTION DEPARTMENT 4 PARK PLAZA SUITE 1600 IRVINE, CA 92614-2558				
EXAMINER BEAUCHAINE, MARK J				
ART UNIT 3653		PAPER NUMBER		
MAIL DATE 07/23/2008		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/551,511

Applicant(s)

BELL ET AL.

Examiner

MARK J. BEAUCHAINE

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-15 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 September 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Receipt of the Applicant's amendment to claim 8 filed 24 April 2008 in response to the rejection 35 USC § 112 of Office action dated 4 October 2007 is acknowledged. Said amendment overcomes the prior rejection which is hereby withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent Application Publication Number US 2003/0150687 A1 by King ("King") in view of Patent Number 5,480,348 by Mazur et al ("Mazur"). The coin acceptor disclosed by King comprises coin rundown path 6 that extends from a coin inlet through coin sensing station 4 and includes a guiding surface, and body/cover configuration 2 (see Figure 1).

King fails to disclose said rundown path as being curved. Mazur teaches coin rundown path 410 that has a curved guiding surface on which a major face of a coin

slides and is urged by centripetal force as it passes sensing station 411/412, and a side wall opposite said curved guiding surface (see Figure 54) for the purpose of directing coins being processed within said acceptor. Said guiding surface is configured to relieve a pressure differential between the major coin face and the guiding surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the rundown path configuration of Mazur into the coin acceptor of King for the purpose of directing coins being processed within said acceptor.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Mazur as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Patent Number 4,989,714 by Abe ("Abe"). King/Mazur fails to disclose an elongated sensor coil. Abe teaches a coin acceptor comprising a coin sensing station having sensing coils including elongate coil winding 17 that extends longitudinally along coin rundown path 34 and is longer than the maximum diameter of coins to be accepted thereby, and processing circuitry 35 that is coupled to said coil and derives a coin diameter signal (see Figures 11 and 14; and column 2, lines 55-63) for the purpose of detecting characteristics of coins being processed by said acceptor. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the coil configuration of Abe into the coin acceptor of King/Mazur for the purpose of detecting characteristics of coins being processed by said acceptor.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King in view of Mazur in view of Patent Number 6,109,417 by Kovens et al ("Kovens"). The coin acceptor disclosed by King comprises coin rundown path 6 that extends from a coin inlet through coin sensing station 4 and includes a guiding surface, and body/cover configuration 2 (see Figure 1).

King fails to disclose said rundown path as being curved. Mazur teaches coin rundown path 410 that has a curved guiding surface on which a major face of a coin slides and is urged by centripetal force as it passes sensing station 411/412, and a side wall opposite said curved guiding surface (see Figure 54) for the purpose of directing coins being processed within said acceptor. Said guiding surface is configured to relieve a pressure differential between the major coin face and the guiding surface. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the rundown path configuration of Mazur into the coin acceptor of King for the purpose of directing coins being processed within said acceptor.

King fails to disclose the Applicant's pressure relief means. Kovens teaches a coin rundown path comprising means/holes 44 to relieve a pressure differential between a major coin face and coin guiding surface 36 (see Figure 5) for the purpose of conveying coins along said rundown path. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the pressure relief means of Kovens into the coin acceptor of King/Mazur for the purpose of conveying coins along said rundown path.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 3-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARK J. BEAUCHAINE whose telephone number is (571)272-6934. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM through 5:00PM Mondays through Thursdays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patrick H. Mackey can be reached on (571)272-6916. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Patrick H. Mackey/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 3653

mjb